

a venting member having an annular section defining an opening and made of a material being at least semi hard, the annular section having a first surface opposite a second surface and sandwiched between the cap inner surface and the rim wherein the first surface faces the cap top portion inner surface; and

a groove formed on the first surface of the annular section extending beyond two locations on the rim.

55. (New) An insert as recited in claim 54 wherein the venting member opening is defined centrally in the venting member.

56. (New) A vented bottle cap system as recited in claim 54 therein the venting member is made from plastic.

**REMARKS**

Claims 18, 35, 37 and 40 have been amended for clarity. Claims 41-56 have been added. No new matter has been added. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Respectfully submitted,  
CHRISTIE PARKER & HALE, LLP

By \_\_\_\_\_

Constantine Marantidis  
Reg. No. 39,759  
626/795-9900

CM/cmc

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 18, 35, 37, 40 as follows:

18. (Amended) A vented bottle cap system comprising:

a bottle having a neck having a rim defining a mouth and threads formed on the neck outer surface;

a cap having a top portion having an inner surface and an annular wall extending from the top portion, the annular wall having threads formed on its inner surface for threading onto the threads formed on the bottle neck, wherein when the cap is threaded onto the bottle neck a gas path is formed between outer surface of the bottle neck and the inner surface of the annular wall; and

a groove formed on the inner surface of the top portion wherein when the cap is threaded onto the bottle neck, the groove extends [outwardly] beyond two locations of the rim of the bottle neck providing a pathway for gas generated in the bottle to escape across the bottle neck mouth and through the gas path.

35. (Amended) An insert having an annular section for use with cap for capping a bottle having a rim defining a bottle mouth and having an inner and an outer diameter, the insert allowing for the venting of gases generated in a bottle when the cap is [threaded on] capping the bottle, the [disc defining] annular section forming an [a central] opening and comprising:

a first surface opposite a second surface;

a circular ridge formed on the first surface of the annular section; and

a slot formed across the ridge.

37. (Amended) A vented bottle cap system comprising:

a bottle having a neck having a rim defining a mouth [and threads formed on the neck outer surface];

a cap having a top portion having an inner surface and an annular wall extending from the top portion, [the annular wall having threads formed on its inner surface

for threading onto the threads formed on the bottle neck,] wherein when the cap is [threaded onto] capping the bottle neck a gas path is formed between outer surface of the bottle neck and the inner surface of the annular wall;

a venting member having an annular section [having a central] defining an opening and made of a material being at least semi hard, the annular section having a first surface opposite a second surface and sandwiched between the cap inner surface and the rim wherein the first surface faces the cap top portion inner surface;

a circular ridge formed on the first surface of the annular section; and

a slot formed across the ridge, wherein when the cap is [threaded onto] capping the bottle neck, the slot forms a pathway for gas generated in the bottle to escape through the opening and across the bottle neck rim and through the gas path.

40. (Amended) A vented bottle cap system as recited in claim 37 therein the [insert] venting member is made from plastic.

P. O. BOX 111111 \* 11/28/01 2:51 PM